



Dear Fellow Wisconsin Physician Assistant:

With the announcement in June of approved changes to Chapter Med 8, it is important to understand how the changes affect Wisconsin physician assistants and their practice. The new rules that go into effect September 1, 2009 eliminate the co-signature of prescriptions requirement and change how PA prepared prescriptions are reviewed by a supervising physician. The following is a summary of the new rules:

- The supervising physician will be required to periodically review a representative sample of the prescriptions or patient records prepared by the physician assistant
- Written prescribing guidelines are required to document a supervising physician's review of the prescribing, dispensing, and administering of drugs by a physician assistant
- The written guidelines will outline the method and frequency of the review by the supervising physician and identify the representative sample
- The written guidelines must include the categories of drugs for which prescribing authority has been authorized.

A **sample prescribing guideline** has been developed by Anne Hletko of the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants and is included **in a separate document** as well as in the August issue of *the Spectator*. The sample document can be used in any Wisconsin practice to comply with the new rules. This documentation should always be present in your professional file and should be current with respect to practice location(s) and supervising physician(s).

These changes are intended to make a medical practice that includes a physician assistant more efficient, streamlined and safe for patients. The goals were to still achieve appropriate supervision of physician assistant prepared prescriptions, but allow for flexibility in each individual practice setting. I believe these goals were met, but it is important for all physician assistants and their supervising physicians to understand what the new requirements are and how to implement them in their practice.

We are excited about this positive change in practice rules for Wisconsin physician assistants. Please share this information with your supervising physician and your colleagues so everyone is aware of the new requirements.

Sincerely,

Clark Collins, PA-C, MPAS  
Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants  
Legislative and Governmental Affairs Chairperson

P.S. Also included following this letter is information from the Department of Regulation and Licensing on how to stay informed about regulatory changes in Wisconsin. Please take a look.

The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing is now offering a new service to the Medical providers of the state of Wisconsin: a semiannual **Medical Examining Board Regulatory Digest**. The Digest is an initiative of the MEB and will strive to keep you abreast of changes in the regulatory environment and will also list recent serious disciplines.

Digests will generally contain the following information:

- Summaries of new laws that impact medical practices
- Reviews of recent serious disciplinary cases
- Updates on the license renewal process
- An explanation of the regulatory process
- Resources available to practitioners
- An update on the many Medical Examining Board initiatives

The Digest is only available electronically. As a licensee with a current email address on file, you will receive the Digest automatically. We encourage you to forward it to anyone you think might be interested in subscribing.

To subscribe to the **Medical Examining Board Regulatory Digest**, please follow these instructions:

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